

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A Web-based tool for managing used assets comprising:
 - enabling submission of a surplus item into an active items list, wherein the surplus item is no longer being used by a direct user;
 - assessing the financial value and condition of the surplus item; and
 - enabling a company to determine a disposition path for the surplus item based on the assessment of the surplus item.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises scrapping the surplus item when there is no value left in the surplus item.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises donating the surplus item when the surplus item has value yet is no longer beneficial to the company.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises reselling the surplus item when the resell value of the surplus item outweighs the benefit of the company keeping the surplus item.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises refurbishing the surplus item for reuse of the surplus item within the company.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises enabling the reuse of the surplus item within the company when the surplus item provides value for the company.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein assessing the financial value and condition of the surplus item comprises reviewing product information, depreciation information, and asset information about the surplus item.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises reselling the surplus item, wherein reselling the surplus item comprises:

determining a reseller;

adding the surplus item to a lot for the reseller; and

shipping the surplus item to the reseller.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising updating one or more databases based on results for the disposition path chosen for the surplus item.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises enabling the surplus item to be reused within the company, wherein enabling the surplus item to be reused comprises:

comparing a description of the surplus item with items that have been waitlisted;

if a match is found,

placing the surplus item on reserve in an on-line personal catalogue; notifying the person who waitlisted the item that the surplus item has been put on reserve; and

enabling the person to order the item within a first predetermined time period; and

if the match is not found,

placing the surplus item in an on-line public catalogue to allow an employee to purchase surplus items from the catalogue, wherein the surplus item will remain in the catalogue within a second predetermined time period.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein if the surplus item remains in the catalogue within the second predetermined time period without being ordered by an employee, the method further comprises removing the surplus item from the on-line public catalogue for re-evaluation.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein enabling the person to order the item within a first predetermined time period comprises removing the surplus item from reserve if the person does not order the surplus item.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

enabling one or more employees to browse an on-line public catalogue to search for wanted surplus items;

if the wanted surplus item is found,

ordering the surplus item;
awaiting approval of the ordered surplus item;
if the ordered surplus item is approved,
enabling the surplus item to be shipped to the employee;
notifying the employee that the surplus item has been shipped;
awaiting a response from the employee that the surplus item has
been received; and
updating one or more databases with information regarding the
surplus item upon receipt of the response.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing incentive credits to employees for submitting surplus items that are reused within the company.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising sending appreciation emails to employees for submitting surplus items that are reused within the company.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
enabling one or more employees to browse an on-line public catalogue to search for wanted surplus items;
if the wanted surplus item is not found, then waitlisting the surplus item, wherein the employee who waitlisted the surplus item is given priority over the waitlisted item.

17. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for enabling submission of a surplus item into an active items list, wherein the surplus item is no longer being used by a direct user; assessing the financial value and condition of the surplus item; and enabling a company to determine a disposition path for the surplus item based on the assessment of the surplus item.

18. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for scrapping the surplus item when there is no value left in the surplus item.

19. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for donating the surplus item when the surplus item has value yet is no longer beneficial to the company.

20. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for reselling the surplus item when the resell value of the surplus item outweighs the benefit of the company keeping the surplus item.

21. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for refurbishing the surplus item for reuse of the surplus item within the company.

22. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for enabling the reuse of the surplus item within the company when the surplus item provides value for the company.

23. The article of claim 17, wherein instructions for assessing the financial value and condition of the surplus item comprises instructions for reviewing product information, depreciation information, and asset information about the surplus item.

24. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for reselling the surplus item, wherein the instructions for reselling the surplus item comprise:

determining a reseller;

adding the surplus item to a lot for the reseller; and

shipping the surplus item to the reseller.

25. The article of claim 17, further comprising instructions for updating one or more databases based on results for the disposition path chosen for the surplus item.

26. The article of claim 17, wherein the disposition path for the surplus item comprises instructions for enabling the surplus item to be reused within the company, wherein the instructions for enabling the surplus item to be reused comprise:

comparing a description of the surplus item with items that have been waitlisted;

if a match is found,

placing the surplus item on reserve in an on-line personal catalogue;

notifying the person who waitlisted the item that the surplus item has been put on reserve; and

enabling the person to order the item within a first predetermined time period; and

if the match is not found,

placing the surplus item in an on-line public catalogue to allow an employee to purchase surplus items from the catalogue, wherein the surplus item will remain in the catalogue within a second predetermined time period.

27. The article of claim 26, wherein if the surplus item remains in the catalogue within the second predetermined time period without being ordered by an employee, the instructions further comprise instructions for removing the surplus item from the on-line public catalogue for re-evaluation.

28. The article of claim 26, wherein instructions for enabling the person to order the item within a first predetermined time period comprises instructions for removing the surplus item from reserve if the person does not order the surplus item.

29. The article of claim 17, further comprising instructions for:

enabling one or more employees to browse an on-line public catalogue to search for wanted surplus items;

if the wanted surplus item is found,
ordering the surplus item;
awaiting approval of the ordered surplus item;
if the ordered surplus item is approved,
enabling the surplus item to be shipped to the employee;
notifying the employee that the surplus item has been shipped;
awaiting a response from the employee that the surplus item has
been received; and
updating one or more databases with information regarding the
surplus item upon receipt of the response.

30. The article of claim 29, further comprising instructions for providing incentive credits to employees for submitting surplus items that are reused within the company.

31. The article of claim 29, further comprising instructions for sending appreciation emails to employees for submitting surplus items that are reused within the company.

32. The article of claim 17, further comprising instructions for:
enabling one or more employees to browse an on-line public catalogue to search
for wanted surplus items;

if the wanted surplus item is not found, then waitlisting the surplus item, wherein the employee who waitlisted the surplus item is given priority over the waitlisted item.